

of emergency services to fight the fire, and began evacuating the other apartments.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Paris, Tennessee are safer because of the selfless acts of bravery from public servants like Officer Colley. We are lucky to have such professional and well-trained personnel to protect our community. I am honored to join his colleagues and neighbors in applauding him for his courage.

CELEBRATING JAMES DARBY AND
PATRICK BOVA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of James Darby and Patrick Bova. Since 1963, Jim and Patrick have been in a loving, devoted relationship and together they have fought to secure marriage equality in Illinois and to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the armed forces. I am proud to recognize this Chicago couple who have been at the forefront of the fight for equality in Illinois and across the country.

Jim was born and raised on the south side of Chicago, where he worked in the stockyards before enlisting in the Navy. He served four years during the Korean War as a Communications Technician Second Class. In this role, Jim worked as a cryptographer and Russian linguist and earned both the National Defense Service Medal and the Naval Occupation Service Medal.

Patrick grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. before moving to Chicago in 1960 to attend the University of Chicago Graduate School in Education.

After Jim's honorable discharge from the military, he met Patrick in Chicago on July 17, 1963. They have been in a committed relationship ever since. Jim spent a 29-year career as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools where he was recognized in 1985 as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Patrick spent a career working at the National Opinion Research Center. When Illinois legalized same-sex civil unions in 2011, Jim and Patrick were among the first couples to share in that new form of partnership.

Together, Jim and Patrick have been working to ensure equality for all Americans serving in our armed forces. Jim founded the Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) in 1992 and served for many years on the organization's executive board. Jim and Patrick have attended every AVER conference since 1992 and fought together to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians serving in the United States Armed Forces and for the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell.

Jim and Patrick are also active in the fight for marriage equality in Illinois. As the lead plaintiffs in *Darby v. Orr*, the case before the Illinois Supreme Court challenging the ban on marriage equality as unconstitutional, Jim's and Patrick's advocacy and testimony have been instrumental in the fight to bring equal rights to all citizens of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of

James Darby and Patrick Bova, a Chicago couple whose patriotic advocacy is improving the lives of gay and lesbian Americans in Illinois and across the country.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE RAMSEY COUNTY
FAIR

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the many dedicated volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors and visitors of the Ramsey County Fair on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of this community festival. This annual fair attracts thousands of attendees through a wide variety of events and activities that entertain families today.

The Ramsey County Fair began in 1913 in White Bear Lake, Minnesota as a simple agricultural event where farmers showcased produce and livestock as well as recent innovations. As the rural parts of Ramsey County gave way to suburban development during the 1950's, the fair had to adjust its events to appeal to a new generation of visitors. Creative arts activities and shows became more prevalent than traditional agriculture. As local historian Jim Lindner has said "the fair had to change to stay relevant, and it did." In 1953, the White Bear Lake School Board purchased the former fairgrounds to expand a local school, forcing the fair to find a new home. The fair opened in its current location in Maplewood, Minnesota in 1954 on what was known as the Ramsey County Poor Farm.

As the Ramsey County Fair prepares to begin its second century of community celebration, the event continues to educate, entertain and delight families from across the Saint Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Ramsey County Fair, I am pleased to submit this statement.

HONORING PEARL HARBOR
SURVIVOR WALTER R. GORR

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pearl Harbor survivor Walter R. Gorr, who passed away on July 8. Staff Sergeant Gorr served the United States of America honorably and earned a Bronze Star.

Mr. Gorr was born in Shell Lake, Wis., on July 4, 1918. He was living in Tracy, California at the Astoria Gardens care facility following a long illness.

In addition to serving in the United States Army, Mr. Gorr was a member of Mount Oso Masonic Lodge, the Order of the Eastern Star, the Tracy American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and several other organizations. He was a proud member of the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Gorr leaves behind a son, Darrell Gorr, and his wife, Sherry, of San Jose; a daughter, Linda Hahn, and her husband, Mark, of

Ladera Ranch; and two grandchildren. Preceding his death were his wife of 61 years, Dorothy Gorr, who died in 2008, three brothers and five sisters.

Walter R. Gorr was a retired Tracy High School teacher but is probably best known as Tracy's last Pearl Harbor survivor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Walter R. Gorr for his accomplishments and contributions. He will be remembered as a highly respected Tracy school teacher and for his efforts in bettering and developing services for veterans.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM
DISABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF
2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, as many of our federal workers face furloughs and a third year of pay freezes, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2013, which will help provide some financial relief for federal employees who suffer a short-term injury or disability. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums. If federal employees elect to purchase the short-term insurance provided for in my bill, and they become injured or ill because of a non-work-related injury or illness, they will be able to collect disability insurance benefits, for up to one year, to replace a portion of their lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance to federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. And, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days if they have to be out of work for an extended period of time. Moreover, although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits if they have not worked for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private sector counterparts, who have access to disability insurance through their employers at group rates. The bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. And, because of the federal government's purchasing power, the bill will provide all of these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual.

According to the Social Security Administration, studies indicate that a 20-year-old worker has a one in four chance of becoming disabled by retirement age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents,

but by conditions or illnesses, such as cancer or back injuries, according to the Council for Disability Awareness.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,188,365,630.03. We've added \$6,111,311,316,716.95 to our debt in 4.5 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST J. GAINES FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Ernest J. Gaines for receiving the National Medal of Arts from the President of the United States for his achievements as an author and teacher in the state of Louisiana.

When presenting this award, President Barack Obama praised Dr. Gaines for rising above early childhood adversities in the segregated rural south to make unique contributions to American literature. The President also thanked Gaines for spending "more than 20 years teaching college students to find their own voices and reclaiming some of the stories of their own families and their own lives."

Describing his journey as a novelist, Gaines once said, it was "only when I tried to write about Louisiana, that I really put everything I had—my soul—and everything I had into it." Gaines said he traveled swamps, bayous, restaurants and bars throughout South Louisiana to prepare to write his classic novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*. Following its publication, he received a Pulitzer Prize nomination and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Screen play adaptations of three of his novels have also broadcast on CBS and HBO.

As writer-in-residence emeritus at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Gaines holds numerous honors, including the National Humanities Medal and recognition by the Academy of Achievement, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Order of Art and Letters in France.

Louisiana is blessed to have this world-famous author among us. As a national treasure, his books will continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

HONORING DR. F. JOE CROSSWHITE

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. F. Joe

Crosswhite, a lifelong teacher and mentor from Springfield, Missouri. As a boy, Joe grew up during the Great Depression taking any job he could find to help his family pay the bills. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Berry, he enrolled at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and earned his B.S. in Education with dual majors in Mathematics and English Literature. He taught high school mathematics in Salem, Missouri where he was chosen as the faculty sponsor for the Class of 1957. As a testament to his character, he not only mentored that class for the next four years of high school, but maintained a 60 year relationship with his students, attending class reunions and other events.

Dr. Crosswhite earned his M.Ed. in Secondary Education and Ph.D. in Mathematics education before retiring from The Ohio State University with the title of Professor Emeritus and accepting a full time position as President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Crosswhite was the President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) from 1984–1986 when the national mathematics standards were first being developed. This was the first attempt by an organization to develop national standards and guidelines for the teaching and learning of any subject. He finished his career at Northern Arizona University as a professor of Mathematics.

Joe has shown his incredible ability to transform lives and encourage students to strive toward their dreams. There are two separate scholarships given in his name to students who demonstrate excellence in mathematics. Joe's many accolades do not outshine his love of teaching or his unparalleled devotion to his students, for which he will always be remembered. He is well respected and loved by all who know him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 343. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CELEBRATING TLC PROPERTIES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 25th Anniversary of TLC Properties.

TLC Properties was founded 25 years ago by Sam and Carol Coryell. The Coryells were college music teachers who had a desire to establish a real-estate business to supplement their income and retirement and to fulfill a dream of owning their own business. Over the last 25 years, Sam and Carol have grown their business from just a handful of units to approximately 3,000 units in the Springfield area.

In 1999, Sam and Carol welcomed their three sons Sam M., Daniel, and David to the family business. The elder Coryells were sure to pass on to their sons the two leading values of TLC Properties: strong character and serv-

ice. These two values, coupled with the entrepreneurial spirit, compassionate care, and friendly service, promise that TLC Properties will continue to grow, succeed, and serve the Springfield area for years to come.

However, the business success of TLC Properties over the last 25 years does not outshine their contributions to the community; they have donated time and money to various worthy causes. Over the years, TLC Properties has been honored with many prestigious awards including the W. Curtis Strube Small Business of the Year Award in 2009 and the Springfield News-Leader Best Property Management Company Award for the years 2009–2012.

I am honored to recognize TLC Properties, Sam, Carol, their sons, and their outstanding staff for the service they have given to the Springfield area for the past 25 years.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF BELLE GROVE PLANTATION DIRECTOR, ELIZABETH MCCLUNG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Elizabeth McClung, the executive director of Belle Grove Plantation in Middletown, Virginia, who will retire at the end of this month.

Elizabeth has led Belle Grove for 17 years and I have had the privilege of working with her many times over the years. We both worked to establish Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Park, which would not have been successful without her hard work and dedication. She has also made extraordinary improvements to the manor through her passion for restoration and historic preservation.

I want to commend Elizabeth on an outstanding job. I wish her all the best in her retirement in Highland County.

I submit a recent news article from the Winchester Star on Elizabeth's remarkable career.

[From the Winchester Star, July 9, 2013]

EXITING BELLE GROVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES PRAISE

(By Laura McFarland)

MIDDLETOWN.—Belle Grove Plantation Executive Director Elizabeth McClung is going out on a high note. With the house in good shape, visitation up, and a "great board in place," she said she is leaving Belle Grove in good hands.

She will retire July 31 after almost 17 years with the historic house in Middletown.

Although there are plenty of new milestones ahead for the historic manor, McClung said she doesn't have any regrets in leaving them to her successor. She is proud of what she accomplished at Belle Grove during her time and will remain an "enthusiastic supporter and continue cheering from the grandstands."

"I wanted to leave on an upswing, and I also didn't want to stay long enough to become an antique," she said with a laugh. McClung gave her notice to Belle Grove's board of directors in March and a search committee was formed to fill the position, said John Adamson, chairman of the board.